



"Grace for the Unworthy"

2 Samuel 9

October 11, 2026

THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE

2 Samuel 9:1-13

And David said, "Is there still anyone left of the house of Saul, that I may show him kindness for Jonathan's sake?" 2 Now there was a servant of the house of Saul whose name was Ziba, and they called him to David. And the king said to him, "Are you Ziba?" And he said, "I am your servant." 3 And the king said, "Is there not still someone of the house of Saul, that I may show the kindness of God to him?" Ziba said to the king, "There is still a son of Jonathan; he is crippled in his feet." 4 The king said to him, "Where is he?" And Ziba said to the king, "He is in the house of Machir the son of Ammiel, at Lo-debar."

5 Then King David sent and brought him from the house of Machir the son of Ammiel, at Lo-debar. 6 And Mephibosheth the son of Jonathan, son of Saul, came to David and fell on his face and paid homage. And David said, "Mephibosheth!" And he answered, "Behold, I am your servant." 7 And David said to him, "Do not fear, for I will show you kindness for the sake of your father Jonathan, and I will restore to you all the land of Saul your father, and you shall eat at my table always." 8 And he paid homage and said, "What is your servant, that you should show regard for a dead dog such as I?"

9 Then the king called Ziba, Saul's servant, and said to him, "All that belonged to Saul and to all his house I have given to your master's grandson. 10 And you and your sons and your servants shall till the land for him and shall bring in the produce, that your master's grandson may have bread to eat. But Mephibosheth your master's grandson shall always eat at my table." Now Ziba had fifteen sons and twenty servants. 11 Then Ziba said to the king, "According to all that my lord the king commands his servant, so will your servant do." So Mephibosheth ate at David's table, like one of the king's sons. 12 And Mephibosheth had a young son, whose name was Mica. And all who lived in Ziba's house became Mephibosheth's servants. 13 So Mephibosheth lived in Jerusalem, for he ate always at the king's table. Now he was lame in both his feet.

MAIN THEME

After establishing his kingdom, David asked whether anyone remained from Saul's household to whom he could show kindness. He had promised Jonathan that he would never forget the covenant of friendship between them. David was not acting from obligation alone; he wanted to show "the kindness of God" for Jonathan's sake.

Ziba told David about Mephibosheth, Jonathan's son, who was unable to walk and lived far from Jerusalem in Lo-debar. As a surviving member of Saul's family, Mephibosheth may have expected

judgment from the new king. Instead, David sought him out, called him by name, and told him, “Do not fear.”

Mephibosheth considered himself as insignificant as “a dead dog,” but David restored Saul’s estate to him, provided servants to work his land, and gave him a permanent place at the king’s table. He was not merely spared; he was welcomed and treated like one of the king’s own sons.

David’s kindness reflects the grace God shows sinners. We come to God unable to earn his favor or repay him, yet through Jesus he seeks us, forgives us, restores us, and welcomes us into his family. Because we have received that grace, we can go ALL IN by extending grace to people who cannot repay us.

DISCUSSION & APPLICATION

1. Grace Remembers Its Promises

1 Samuel 20:14–17, 42; 2 Samuel 9:1–3; Psalm 89:1–2

- What promise had David made to Jonathan, and how did it shape his actions years later?
- Why did David take the initiative to search for someone from Saul’s family?
- What does David mean when he speaks of showing “the kindness of God”?
- How does God’s faithfulness to his promises encourage you to keep your own commitments?

2. Grace Seeks Those Who Expect Nothing

2 Samuel 9:4–8; Luke 19:10; Romans 5:6–8

- Why might Mephibosheth have been afraid when he was summoned before David?
- What do his words, “a dead dog such as I,” reveal about how he viewed himself?
- How did David’s words and actions replace Mephibosheth’s fear with security?
- How does David seeking Mephibosheth help us understand God’s grace toward sinners?

3. Grace Gives Us a Place at the King’s Table

2 Samuel 9:7, 9–13; Ephesians 2:4–7; Galatians 4:4–7

- What specific gifts and provisions did David give Mephibosheth?
- What is significant about Mephibosheth eating at David’s table like one of the king’s sons?
- In what ways does salvation give believers more than they could ever earn or repay?
- How should knowing that you belong to God’s family affect the way you see yourself?

4. Extend Grace to Those Who Cannot Repay You

Luke 6:32–36; Luke 14:12–14; Ephesians 4:32

- Why is it easier to show kindness when we expect something in return?
- What makes grace different from ordinary generosity or reciprocal kindness?
- Who in your life may feel overlooked, fearful, unworthy, or unable to repay you?
- What practical act of grace can you extend to that person this week?

PRAY

Gracious Father, thank you for seeking us when we could do nothing to earn your favor. Through Jesus, you have forgiven us, restored us, and welcomed us into your family. Help us remember the grace we have received and extend that same grace to others. Show us the people who feel forgotten or unworthy, and give us generous hearts that expect nothing in return. Amen.

DIG DEEPER

For Further Study:

- 1 Samuel 20:12–17, 42
- 2 Samuel 4:4
- Psalm 23:5–6
- Luke 14:12–24
- Romans 5:6–11
- Ephesians 2:1–10

NEXT WEEK'S BIG IDEA

2 Samuel 10:1–19

David's kindness is rejected, but God remains faithful as conflict grows around his kingdom.